GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3572
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
DEEP SEA FISHING
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to develop deep sea fishing industry to take advantage of the vast potential of country`s exclusive economic zone;

(b) whether Government plans to operate this deep sea fishing industry by multinationals big businessmen;

(c) whether fishermen rushed to capital for Dharna since foreigners approached their area of fishing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): In order to exploit the vast fishery potential within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone(EEZ), several Indian companies have been premitted to operate deep sea fishing vessels under Joint Venture Policy (1991). Further, a Comprehensive Policy on Marine Fisheries including deep sea fishing is under finalisation.

(c) &(d): Fishermen expressed apprehension regarding operation of foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters. This was got checked by the Coast Guard who has clarified that there are no unauthorised foreign fishing vessels fishing in our waters. Coast Guard has been directed to maintain a strict check in the EEZ and patrolling has been strengthened to prevent illegal fishing.